

## Tier II Reporting Requirements for EPCRA

*Paul Lee, Bureau of Air Quality and John Kneece, UST Compliance Section*

The Emergency Planning and the Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) looks at hazards posed by the storage and handling of toxic chemicals. The EPCRA was created after the 1984 disaster in Bhopal, India, where more than 3,800 people died or were seriously injured during the release of a toxic gas called methyl isocyanate. To reduce the chances for a disaster in the United States, Congress now requires states and regulated facilities to report on and track toxic chemicals.

Section 312 of EPCRA says that facilities have to make yearly reports to state and local officials on what hazardous chemicals they are storing and how much of these chemicals they have. These reports keep the public aware of the chemicals stored in their communities and help with local emergency planning. The reports (called Tier II Reports) go to the state, to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and to fire departments. The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) requires that each qualifying facility submit a report by March 1 each year. In South Carolina, these reports are submitted to DHEC.

According to a 1999 Federal rule change to the EPCRA, certain retail sites (including convenience stores and truck stops) do not have to make Tier II reports. If a retail site stores less than 75,000 gallons for all grades of gasoline combined and less than 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel, all entirely underground, and the facility has been in compliance with the UST regulations all year, no report is required. This reporting exemption only applies for reporting at the state level.

If a retail site stores more than 10,000 pounds (about 1,200 gallons) above ground, that site must file a Tier II report for ALL the petroleum products stored there, including those stored underground. Retail sites must also report if they exceeded the 75,000/100,000-gallon threshold at any one time during the year.

The regulation also says there is a difference between retail sites and marinas. Marinas are NOT exempt from the report requirement. Other petroleum storage sites (government locations, utilities, fleet operations, bulk storage, etc.) must make Tier II reports if total storage capacity underground and/or above ground

is greater than 10,000 pounds (about 1,200 gallons).

Some LEPCs and counties in SC still make retail sites submit Tier II reports. Several counties also collect yearly fees based on Tier II reports. These fees are used to support local fire departments. Even if a retail facility does not have to make EPCRA reports, owners/operators should check with the county emergency preparedness office to find out about any required local reporting or fees. Copies of reporting forms, free reporting software, contact information and instructions can be found online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.scdhec.net/eqc/baq/html/eqepcra.html"](http://www.scdhec.net/eqc/baq/html/eqepcra.html).

Reminder: a Tier II report covers a calendar year (January 1 through December 31) and must be sent in by March 1 of the next year. If you have South Carolina specific questions about Tier II reports, call Paul Lee at the Bureau of Air Quality, (803) 898-3849.

*Ed. Note: In other words, if you stay in compliance with UST regulations, in certain cases you don't have to do EPCRA tracking and reporting!*



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## The (Tank) Doctor Is In

*Leslie Yasinsac, Compliance Inspector*

**Q:** Can I count on a testing vendor or UST management system to do all my testing on time?

**A:** Some tank owners get a compliance service to keep track of testing dates, compliance records, or monitoring requirements. Many compliance services do a fine job. Even if you get someone to do this for you, you (not the service) are still responsible for making sure that tests are scheduled and performed on time. You are also responsible for knowing the results of testing and monitoring, to have records of compliance, and to operate and maintain the system properly.

**Q:** Owner/operators are required to report releases to the UST program within 72 hours of detection. How can I know if there is a release at my facility?

**A:** When product goes into the soil or onto surface water, that is a release. Even if the amount seems small, you must report it. A release report is required for: product on the ground or on surface water; a test result of "fail,"

either from precision testing by a testing company or from electronic monitoring (automatic tank gauges and electronic line leak detectors); alarms from monitoring systems (interstitial monitors and brine monitors for double-walled systems, turbine and dispenser sump monitors); ANY non-passing result on SIR; a tank fails the leak check at the end of the month (Inventory Control and Monthly Reconciliation release detection); or "unusual operating conditions" (sudden loss alarm from your monitoring system, unexplained water in the tank, or unusual behavior of dispensers).

If you are not sure that a situation requires a release report, call the compliance experts at the UST Help Desk, (803) 896-6240. They will help you find the best response for you and the environment.

**Q:** Is there anything more I can do to decrease the possibility of a release or decrease clean-up costs if there is a release?

**A:** Routine inspections of the UST system can find problems before they lead to contamination or costly repairs. The most important tools owners have to prevent, detect, and limit releases are their eyes.

To do a routine inspection: check the monitoring system ( tank gauge or a gauge stick); check that spill buckets are clean and empty and will hold liquid; check that all tank access points (manways) are clear and that lids are on securely; check that pump sump is clean and dry; check dispensers inside and out, including hoses, nozzles, breakaways, and sumps; and check the rectifier to be sure the system is operating correctly (for impressed current systems).

The TANK DOCTOR recommends that you do an inspection at least once a month.

## SIR Revisited

*Laura Daye, Compliance Inspector*

### What is SIR?

SIR stands for Statistical Inventory Reconciliation, an approved method of leak detection that uses statistics and computer programs. SIR can be used for Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) and Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs) and their piping. SIR can detect leaks as small as 0.1 gallon per hour.

### Who can benefit from SIR?

Owner/Operators who face the 10-year/2008 monthly monitoring deadline, or who are not satisfied with their current leak detection method, may want to check into SIR.

### Where do I find a SIR company?

To find an SIR provider, you can contact suppliers, look in the yellow pages, or check on the

Internet. The UST Compliance Section has also made a list of companies that provide SIR services. Note: the UST Program does not endorse companies that appear on the list.

### How much does SIR cost?

The cost of SIR can range from \$10 - \$20 a month per tank. The cost is based on the number of tanks (more tanks mean a lower

cost per tank), how the data is sent (manual or electronic), and the service package. Some companies offer secure Internet access to all available data and may put together a packet of compliance records for inspections.

#### **Can my tank use SIR?**

That depends on the particular SIR program, tank size and the number of gallons that are sold each month. If the program can handle your UST system, the main advantage of SIR is that it requires minimal on-site equipment.

#### **What do I need to do to use SIR?**

Each day, you must measure

the product level in the tank. You can do this with a gauge stick or with an automatic tank gauge (ATG). Just remember: the better the data, the more accurate the results. Calculations are made using daily measurements, daily sales and delivery information. You send this information to the SIR vendor daily or less often. The vendor will tell you how to do this. Your business is not interrupted, and you don't have to fill the tank.

#### **What will my SIR vendor do?**

Your SIR vendor will provide you with monthly leak detection reports that clearly state PASS, FAIL, or INCONCLUSIVE. South

Carolina requires that you immediately report any FAIL or INCONCLUSIVE report. The SIR vendor should suggest why there was a FAIL or INCONCLUSIVE result along with instructions for follow-up.

#### **How do I find out more about SIR?**

If you would like more information about SIR, ask your inspector for the EPA booklet, "Introduction to Statistical Inventory Reconciliation for Underground Storage Tanks," or call the regulatory help desk at (803) 896-6240. In South Carolina only, call 1-800-826-5435.

## **New Face, New Perspective, New Project**

*Denise Place, Compliance Section*

I'm new to the UST Program. This is my first job with the State of South Carolina. I come to this program with varied industrial experience, but I have not worked with underground tanks or leak detection. Most of my previous experience has been in waste disposal, trying to find the best possible disposal solution. My job in UST is much more preventive, which I like. I'm excited about helping tank owners prevent releases and/or discover releases quickly. In my opinion, prevention and detection are easier and less costly than clean up.

In previous jobs, I worked to run the operation and stay in compliance with the regulations, so I empathize with tank owners.

There are a lot of rules, and the process can seem overwhelming at times--like the concept of monthly monitoring for release detection. Just the words make it sound like it would take a lot of time, but monthly monitoring isn't all that time consuming. A little organization and good record keeping are all that are required to stay on top of this compliance task. Staying in compliance benefits everyone, especially the environment. Although the cost of compliance may seem steep, the price is small compared to the loss of water or land resources, or the cost of cleanup due to a release. From my previous experience in industry, I know that prevention is the best choice. Tank

owner/operators are the first line of defense. My goal is to help tank owners/operators prevent releases and to discover releases quickly. I am glad to be a member of the team.

One of my first assignments is to survey the use and effectiveness of Statistical Inventory Reconciliation (SIR) as a leak detection method in South Carolina. In the next couple of weeks, I will contact tank owners who use SIR, as well as the SIR vendors/companies who provide this service. I will be looking for facts and opinions about SIR. Watch for my survey. You can call me at (803) 896-6240 or 1-800-826-5435 in South Carolina only.

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## Smith-Rogers Tiger Mart - Excellence Award

Tiger Mart 4 and Tiger Mart 10 of Smith-Rogers Oil Co., Inc. in Mullins emerged from the "best field of nominees ever" to earn the Program's Environmental Excellence Award. Two different inspectors cited "accurate,

complete, well organized records" and their "monthly inspection and maintenance program" as the primary reasons for the stations' successes over time. Both facilities have a spotless compliance record reaching back over 7 years!

Congratulations to Billy and Bill Rogers and their Smith-Rogers team.

Congratulations also go to the other nominees this term – all excellent facilities with enviable compliance records:

Jake's Landing – Lexington  
McCall's BP & Wrecker Service – Easley  
McCarty's – Dalzell  
Pepsi Cola Bottling – Greenville  
Petro Express 14 – Rock Hill

Pickens Roofing & Sheet Metals – Spartanburg  
SCETV – Columbia  
Shell Food Mart – Grays Hill  
Tiger Express 2 – Brunson  
Village Store - Greenwood

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